



Media Release

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Road safety the best gift you can give

RAC says the best gift Western Australians can give their friends and family this Christmas is ensuring they take extra care on the roads.

RAC General Manager Corporate Affairs, Will Golsby, said last year WA had the worst road fatality rate of any State in Australia and there have been too many fatalities and serious injuries on our roads this year.

“According the WA Police crash statistics up to 21 December, 157 people have tragically died on our roads and 166 have been critically injured,” Mr Golsby said.

The Christmas and New Year holiday period provides a welcome opportunity for many Western Australians to take a break, often including trips to holiday destinations across the State.

But it can also be a stressful time on the roads. The roads and shopping centres may be busier so it’s important that commuters are patient and prepared for their journeys.

“We all need to play a role in ensuring this period is relaxing, safe and enjoyable for everyone. Preparation is key to having a good time without putting yourself or others in danger,” Mr Golsby added.

“Drivers can make sure their trip is a safe one by planning to allow time for plenty of rest breaks and sharing driving duties where possible.”

Mr Golsby wants to remind drivers that with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of 0.05 the risk of being involved in a crash doubles.

“Alcohol affects decision-making, reaction times, speed and distance judgements, as well as concentration, balance and alertness. It can give a driver a false sense of confidence, which may encourage risk taking.

“If you’re planning on drinking alcohol, please make sure you also have a plan to get home safely, whether it means staying the night or asking a friend or taxi to get you home.

“If WA’s fatality rate came down to the national average, more than 45 lives could be saved each year – that’s 450 Western Australians over the next decade. Please stay safe this Christmas.”

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